AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A managing method for ordering a composite apparatus formed by composing a plurality of units through an ordering apparatus and for managing said ordered composite apparatus, comprising the steps of:

causing said ordering apparatus to receive unit information for specifying units constituting a composite apparatus and create composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the received unit information, according to a predetermined rule;

giving a trigger to said composite apparatus from exterior;

causing said composite apparatus to, when receiving a trigger, recognize unit information for specifying units to be composed itself and create composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the recognized unit information, according to the same rule as said rule;

causing said composite apparatus to inform the composite state information to exterior; and

comparing the composite state information created by said ordering apparatus and the composite state information informed ~~created~~ by said composite apparatus.

2. (Currently amended) A managing system comprising an ordering apparatus and a composite apparatus formed by composing a plurality of units, for ordering said composite

apparatus through said ordering apparatus and for managing said ordered composite apparatus, wherein

said ordering apparatus comprises:

means for receiving unit information for specifying units constituting a composite apparatus; and

first creating means for creating composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the received unit information, according to a predetermined rule, and

said composite apparatus comprises:

means for receiving a trigger from exterior;

means for, when receiving a trigger, recognizing unit information for specifying units to be composed itself; [[and]]

second creating means for creating composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the recognized unit information, according to the same rule as said rule; and

informing means for informing the composite state information to exterior.

3. (Original) The managing system as set forth in Claim 2, wherein said ordering apparatus further comprises storing means for storing the composite state information created by said first creating means in association with composite apparatus information for specifying the composite apparatus.

4. (Currently amended) The managing system as set forth in Claim 3, wherein

said ordering apparatus and said composite apparatus are connected through a communication network,

said informing means of said composite apparatus transmits ~~said composite apparatus further comprises means for transmitting~~ the composite state information created by said second creating means to said ordering apparatus, and

said ordering apparatus further comprises means for comparing the transmitted composite state information and the composite state information corresponding to the composite apparatus information stored by said storing means.

5. (Currently amended) The managing system as set forth in Claim 2, further comprising a managing apparatus, connected to said ordering apparatus and said composite apparatus through a communication network, for managing said composite apparatus, wherein

said ordering apparatus further comprises means for transmitting the composite state information created by said first creating means and composite apparatus information for specifying the composite apparatus to said managing apparatus,

said informing means of said composite apparatus transmits ~~composite apparatus further comprises means for transmitting~~ the composite state information created by said second creating means to said managing apparatus, and

said managing apparatus further comprises means for comparing the composite state information transmitted from said ordering apparatus and the composite state information transmitted from said composite apparatus.

6. (Currently amended) A composite apparatus formed by composing a plurality of units, comprising:

means for receiving a trigger from exterior;

means for, when receiving the trigger, recognizing unit information for specifying units to be composed itself;

means for creating composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the recognized unit information, according to a predetermined rule; and

means for informing ~~outputting~~ the created composite state information to exterior.

7. (Currently amended) An ordering apparatus for ordering a composite apparatus formed by composing a plurality of units, comprising:

means for receiving unit information for specifying units constituting a composite apparatus;

means for creating composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the received unit information, according to a predetermined rule; and

means for, when receiving composite state information created according to the same rule as said rule and transmitted from the composite apparatus specified by the composite apparatus information stored by a ~~said~~ storing means, comparing received composite state information and the composite state information stored in said storing means.

8. (Previously presented) A recording medium on which a computer program is stored, the computer program for ordering a composite apparatus formed by composing a plurality of

units, the recording medium causing via the computer program causing steps comprising the following to be performed:

causing a computer to receive unit information for specifying units constituting a composite apparatus;

causing a computer to create composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the received unit information, according to a predetermined rule;

causing a computer to store the created composite state information in association with composite apparatus information for specifying the composite apparatus; and

causing a computer to, when receiving composite state information created according to the same rule as said rule and transmitted from the composite apparatus specified by the stored composite apparatus information, compare received composite state information and the stored composite state information.

9. (Previously presented) A memory product readable by computers and storing therein a computer program for ordering a composite apparatus formed by composing a plurality of units, including:

computer readable code means to cause a computer for receiving unit information for specifying units constituting a composite apparatus;

computer readable code means to cause a computer for creating composite state information for specifying a composite state of units based on the received unit information, according to a predetermined rule;

computer readable code means to cause a computer for storing the created composite state information in association with composite apparatus information for specifying the composite apparatus; and

computer readable code means for causing a computer to, when receiving composite state information created according to the same rule as said rule and transmitted from the composite apparatus specified by the stored composite apparatus information, compare received composite state information and the stored composite state information.